

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph in the Substitute Specification starting at page 3, line 6 and ending at page 3, line 10 as follows:

The density characteristics of the output unit of the image forming apparatus, as indicated in Fig. 14, can be determined by a method utilizing a test output image as disclosed in the Japanese Patent Applications Laid-open Nos. 11-75067, 2000-59643 and 2000-69307. Such method will be explained in the following with an example shown in Fig. 16. A United States Patent Application corresponding to both Japanese Patent Application Nos. 11-75067 and 2000-59643 has been filed and has issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,697,167 B1.